

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A fluid separator for the separation of fluids comprising oil and water in connection with the extraction and production of oil and gas from formations beneath the sea bed, the separator comprising:

a pipe separator for separating the oil and the water, the pipe separator having an inlet and an outlet;

a first transport pipe connected to the inlet of the pipe separator;

a pipe bend, connected to the outlet of the pipe separator, for forming a downstream fluid seal in relation to the pipe separator and maintaining a fluid level in the pipe separator, wherein the pipe separator and the pipe bend are arranged to permit the pipe separator and the pipe bend to be pigged; and

a drainage pipe for draining the separated water from the separator; and

a second transport pipe, connected to a downstream end of the pipe bend, for transporting the separated oil.

11. (Previously Presented) A fluid separator in accordance with claim 10, further comprising a well head disposed upstream of the pipe separator, a cyclone connected to the well head for the separation of gas, and a pipe connected to the second transport pipe for conducting the gas back to the second transport pipe downstream of the pipe separator.

12. (Previously Presented) A fluid separator in accordance with claim 10, further comprising a gas bypass pipe for conducting gas around the pipe bend, wherein an inlet of the gas bypass pipe is connected upstream of the pipe separator, and an outlet of the gas bypass is connected to the second transport pipe disposed downstream of the pipe separator.

13. (Previously Presented) A fluid separator in accordance with claim 10, further comprising a compact electrostatic coalescer, and an additional separator disposed downstream of the compact electrostatic coalescer, wherein separated fluid from the additional separator can be conducted to a nearby well.

14. (Previously Presented) A fluid separator in accordance with claim 11, further comprising a compact electrostatic coalescer and an additional separator disposed downstream of the compact electrostatic coalescer, wherein gas from the cyclone can be conducted to the second transport pipe downstream of the additional separator, and separated fluid from the additional separator can be conducted to a nearby well.

15. (Previously Presented) A fluid separator in accordance with claim 10, wherein the pipe bend includes a first section extending upwardly from the pipe separator, a second portion extending downwardly to the second transport pipe.